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ANNUAL REPORT

of the

STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC EDUCATION

1980 - 81

and

RECOMMENDATIONS

to the

LEGISLATURE OF MISSISSIPPI

1982

Volume I

Issued by

C. E. Holladay, Ed.D.

STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC EDUCATION

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

Department of Education

Jackson, Mississippi

January 1, 1982

To the Legislature of the State of Mississippi

Gentlemen:

In accordance with the requirements of Section 37-3-11, Mississippi Code of 1972, Annotated, I herewith submit to your honorable body the annual report of the Superintendent of Public Education for the fiscal year 1980-81.

Respectfully submitted,

C. E. Holladay

C. E. Holladay, Ed. D.

State Superintendent of Education

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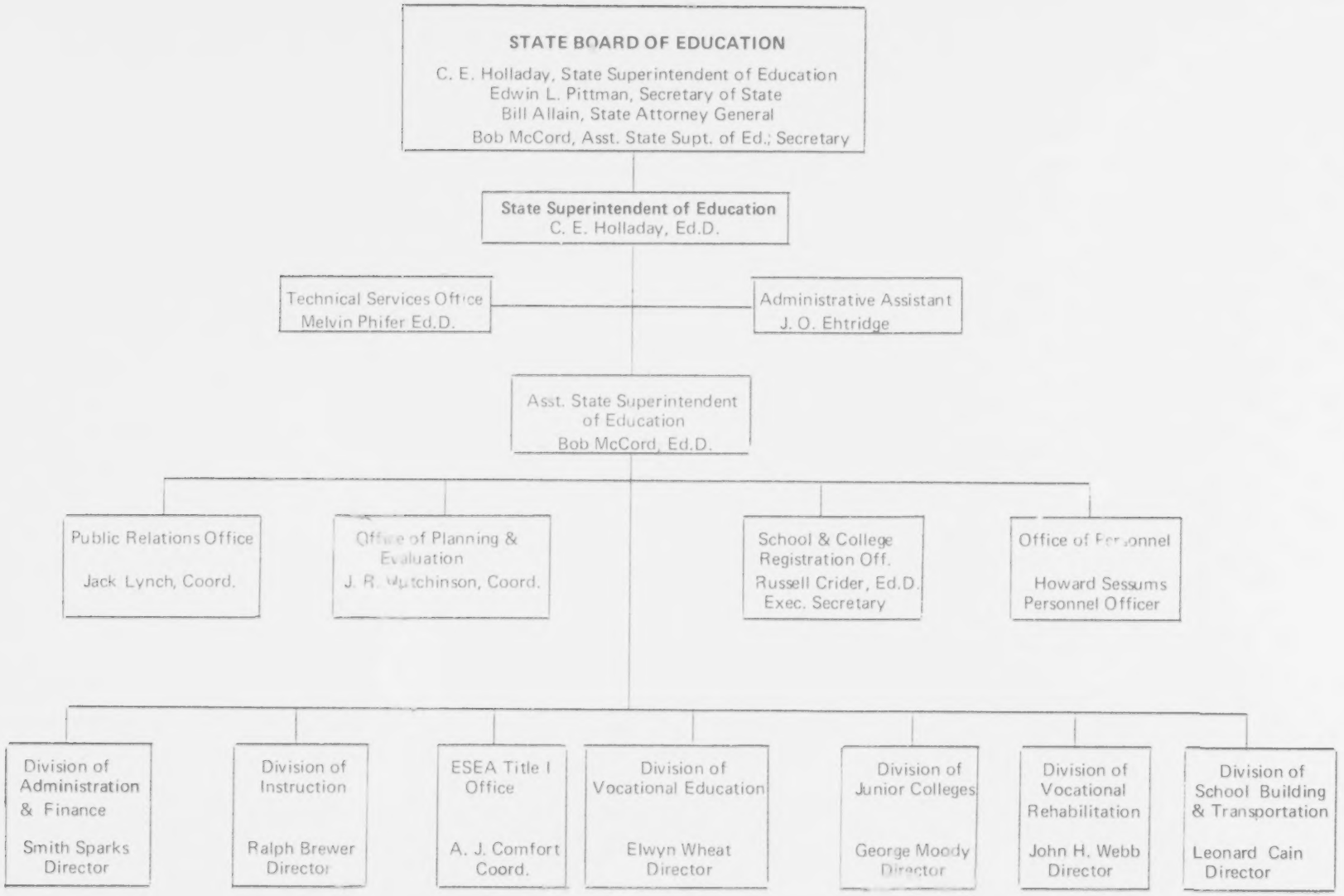
Leonard Cain ..... Director, School Building and Transportation

Elwyn G. Wheat ..... Director, Vocational Education

John H. Webb ..... Assistant Superintendent, Vocational Rehabilitation

MISSISSIPPI STATE SUPERINTENDENTS OF EDUCATION

1869-1873	Henry R. Pease
1873-1876	Thomas W. Cardoza
1876-1877	Thomas S. Gathright
1877-1878	Joseph Bardwell
1878-1885	James Arble Smith
1885-1895	James R. Preston
1895-1898	Andrew A. Kincannon
1898-1907	H. L. Whitfield
1907-1914	Joseph N. Powers
1914-1916	W. H. Smith
1916-1935	W. F. Bond
1936	J. T. Calhoun
1936-1945	J. S. Vandiver
1945-1968	J. M. Tubb
1968-1975	G. H. Johnston
1976-	C. E. Holladay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Coord.
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Elwyn Wheat
Director
Division of Junior Colleges
George Moody
Director
Division of Vocational Rehabilitation
John H. Webb
Director
Division of School Building & Transportation
Leonard Cain
Director

REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION

This Annual Report will provide you with information about the work of the department and our efforts to account for responsibilities in education for the State of Mississippi. The State Department of Education is working to provide more competent and capable assistance for school systems and programs. There are many training programs for employees in the department to sharpen their skills in working with others.

The educational opportunities that have been provided boys and girls of this state are improving to meet their needs today. Administrators and teachers are seriously working on their concerns for the accountability of education. Schools are better today because of these efforts on the part of those involved to perform more effectively. Our achievement scores are continuing to show improvement over last year. Education has many problems that must be solved with the help of the communities and the Legislature.

The Annual Report to the Legislature has suggested four priority items for the Legislature's review each year. To utilize the Legislative Education Study Committee's work, we are combining some priorities since much time was spent in looking at educational needs. These general priorities are: 1) Adequate financing of education, 2) One Set of School Laws, 3) Early Childhood Education,and 4) Support Services. Support Services will include those additional needs that schools have to provide for the quality of education necessary today.

In looking at what we can do to improve education that will not necessarily need legislation and/or finance, I am recommending to school systems the following programs: 1) establish a well-defined citizenship education program for all students, 2) reestablish a concern for every student to understand the importance of good work ethics, and 3) establish a well-defined discipline policy in which students, teachers, administrators, parents and community leaders understand what is necessary for a good organization to function effectively.

School systems need to review their policies on assigning homework to be sure that enough work is required from students in school and out of school to give them the additional skills that are necessary for success in the future. School buildings and grounds must be neat, attractive and representative of the quality of education that is going on inside the building. Schools are working to place emphasis on the improvement of instruction, administration, acquiring basic skills for students and to strengthen the vocational programs so that the results will provide students with skills which are useful for their future. School systems in our state are all developing a management system for their instructional program.

ADEQUATE FINANCING OF EDUCATION

Any discussion of needed improvements in education has to have finance at the top of the list. In our last opinion poll we found 57 percent of the general public said not

enough money is being provided for schools in our state. In that same poll, legislators and superintendents said lack of finances is the biggest problem facing Mississippi's public schools. This need has continued to show top concern on national polls. In a priority session with a cross section of educators, parent groups, business, industry and legislators, adequate financing was still the number one problem.

The Minimum Education Program does not provide the necessary funds for schools to meet minimum standards of quality education. The Supportive Services section of the state program does not include enough funds for schools to hire librarians, guidance counselors, physical education, music or art teachers, yet all these people are required for schools to meet accreditation standards and provide good educational opportunity.

The Legislative Education Study Committee has spent many hours reviewing and discussing the need for adequate financing and methods of providing additional resources for education. There has been agreement that financing education has to be a cooperative effort between local school systems and the state with each providing a fair share of the cost. The importance of better education has never been greater than today. We are finding that the South will have greater economic opportunities to develop and grow if our citizens have those skills necessary for success.

The Legislative Education Study Committee has developed a new formula for the distribution of funds that will take into consideration all the various factors that are necessary for equal educational opportunity in all school systems across the state. This formula will be available for your review during this session of the Legislature. The committee has also reviewed sources of income that may be available for use in helping to meet education's needs today. Mississippi has been very fortunate in that we have been able to get our educational program at a very minimum cost. With the increase in inflation and the needs that we are facing today, it becomes very important that additional sources of revenue be found to support educational programs or fewer programs will be available for children in the future.

ONE SET OF SCHOOL LAWS

The need for one set of school laws is very evident to everyone who deals with school systems in our state. We have five types of school districts with different laws that provide guidance for their operation. It is necessary for these school systems to begin having a common operating procedure established by law. The Legislative Education Study Committee has recommended that laws be passed that will relate to all school systems. These recommendations are:

1. Expanded State Board of Education.
2. Provide fiscal independence for all school districts.
3. Appoint local school superintendents statewide.
4. Strengthen compulsory attendance law.

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Early Childhood Education is the best educational investment we can make for the improvement of education in Mississippi.

Benjamin Bloom, noted educational phychologist, has found one-half of a person's intellectuality has developed by four years of age.

The Legislative Education Study Committee and others have recommended that a kindergarten program be established for Mississippi. This program may be implemented over a multiple-year time frame. This will provide our children with the opportunity to develop early patterns of learning that will allow them to grow and achieve at their best. Those who have made a study of kindergarten programs are now finding that youngsters who have had an early childhood education continue to improve more effectively than those without this early training.

SUPPORT SERVICES

The needs for strengthening those programs that are essential to the operation of schools has been studied by the Legislative Education Study Committee and others. It was their concern that these programs be provided with adequate funding to make them effective for school operation.

The following programs are used by local school systems and need strengthening:

1. Appropriate funds for pupil transportation. This obviously will be an energy and cost saving program for parents in the state if we are able to transport children at a reasonable cost to schools today.

2. Funds for the purchase of textbooks should be adequately furnished for school programs. It was recommended that these funds be allowed to be transferred from one year to the next.

3. Financial support for new school buildings and repairs on existing buildings is a continuous need. The Legislative Education Study Committee recognized that building funds should require a simple majority of the voters to approve a bond issue.

4. A concern for school food services provides that the matching requirement be met by state appropriated funds.

5. In-service education is necessary if we are to continue improving services for students. This training activity needs to be available in every school system. It is recommended that an appropriation be made of Twenty-Five Dollars ($25.00) per teacher to be used for in-service programs that are identified as a need for school personnel.

These recommendations will help to improve our educational programs if they are implemented in the local school systems.

SUMMARY

The Legislature will have an opportunity to begin rewriting and reworking education laws so that all school systems and their students will have an opportunity for a better education in our state. The future of Mississippi will largely depend upon the ability of school systems to provide the kind of training that will be necessary for citizens of tomorrow to take advantage of the opportunities that will be available in the South.

On the following pages are reports from the various divisions within the State Department of Education. These reports state the purposes and accomplishments of each division.